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I kept notes of the bearings and distances all the way down; but as the river has since been trigonometrically surveyed by the officers of the "Euphrates" steamer, I do not think it necessary to add them here.

The following bearings were omitted above:—

From Till Walíchah.		From Gaur.	
Malwíyah . . .	S.S.W., Southerly	. . .	S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ E.
Greater Tomb . . .	S.S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.	. . .	S.E. $\frac{3}{4}$ S.
Kāim . . .	Southerly.		
Gate of Khalífah . . .	W.S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.	. . .	E. by S., Southerly
'Ashík . . .	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N.	. . .	N.N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.
Chináb . . .	N.W. $\frac{3}{4}$ N.	Till Walíchah	E. $\frac{3}{4}$ N.
Abú Dilif . . .	N.N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.	Selebíyah . . .	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S.
Kanṭarah Reşá'sí . . .	N.N.W., Northerly	Kal'at-el-Kelb	S.S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.
		Hawásílát . . .	N.N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ W.

Baghdád, Dec. 15, 1839.

JOHN ROSS.

X.—Routes in Kirmán, Jebál, and Khorásán, in the Years 1831 and 1832. By RICHARD GIBBONS, a Sergeant of the British Detachment serving in Persia.

IN the beginning of the autumn of 1830, while the province of A'zerbaiján was still suffering, in common with a great part of Persia, from that most dreadful scourge, the plague—by which many villages, and even some of the larger towns and cities, had been nearly depopulated, the king's eldest son, 'Abbás Mírzá, received orders from his father, Fat-ḥ 'Alí Sháh, to assemble his army without delay, and march towards Yezd and Kirmán, in order, if possible, to restore order and security to those devoted provinces, which were then suffering under the accumulated horrors of civil war, pestilence and famine; and to reduce the prince, Ḥasan 'Alí Mírzá, governor of Kirmán, who was in a state of open rebellion, to obedience.

I shall not stop to give an account of the many difficulties which were encountered and overcome, ere the troops could be assembled at such a disastrous period—suffice it to say, that the non-commissioned officers of the British Detachment marched down, with the different corps to which they were attached, to Khemseh, where the force was concentrated and placed under the temporary command of Moḥammed Mírzá. Here our commandant joined us, and we left the camp and proceeded to Teherán, to await the orders of the British Ambassador as to whether we were to accompany the army to Káshán or not. We advanced by the usual route, viz., the high road to Isfahán; but as that route is well known, and in order to avoid a detail of occurrences on the





march, a mere statement of the route, general direction, towns, villages, watering-places, &c. &c., will, for the most part, be given, and I shall begin the present extract from my journal with our departure from the thriving city of *Káshán*, celebrated throughout Persia for the industry of its inhabitants.

From *Káshán* to *Abú Sayyad-ābād*,* 24 miles E.S.E.

At daylight, on the morning of the 16th of March, 1831, we quitted *Káshán*; at 12 miles, passed a reservoir of water; at 16 miles, a village on the right, about a mile from the road; and at 20 miles, another on the left. *Abú Sayyad-ābād* is a large village. The road lies over a sandy plain; the view to the left being bounded by hills, and to the right by the *Ḳorúd* range of mountains at a distance.

17th March.—To *Mokhar*, 40 miles S.E. by E.

At 2 miles, a ruined mosque, or *Imám-zádah* † and cultivated ground, on the left; 2 miles further, a small village on the right. At 16 miles, we passed through a fine village called *Kelt-ābād*, surrounded by gardens and corn-fields. There is another village 2 miles further on, and, in the course of another mile, a third. The road still lay along the plain. The village of *Mokhar* was, at this time, nearly untenanted; its inhabitants having repaired to the mountains. It is large, and surrounded by a lofty wall: most of the houses are two stories high: there are many gardens and a great extent of cultivated land adjoining it. A small stream winds by its walls.

18th.—To *Ajistán*, 20 miles S.S.E.

Continued over the plain, passing, at 2 miles, a village on the right; and at 12 two others, about two miles distant from each other and from the road. *Ajistán* is a large straggling town, surrounded by gardens, and celebrated for its pomegranates. The *Sháh* has a palace here, but it is in a dilapidated state.

19th.—To *Safergán*, 18 miles E.S.E.

After crossing a gravelly slope for about 4 miles, we entered a narrow gorge in the hills, through which a rivulet winds. *Safergán* is a large village surrounded by high hills: it is not walled. The population is considerable; and it has a thriving appearance.

20th.—To *Neyásánah*, 26 miles S.E.

For 12 miles we continued to wind through the gorge in the mountains; after which the road opens upon a vast plain, dreary and barren. The miserable village of *Neyásánah* was totally

* Perhaps *Abu Su'ūd-ābād*. The names in the original are not spelt on any uniform principle, and often solely from the ear: where the equivalent here given is doubtful, the original spelling has been added below.—Ed.

† Literally “*Imám-born* :” it is the title of the descendants of the Twelve *Imáms*, and is applied in Persian to their tombs, which are places of pilgrimage.—Ed.

deserted by its inhabitants, who had fled at the approach of the troops, and had not yet returned. There is a caravanserai near it.

21st.—To Náyán, 20 miles S.E.

We continued along a desolate plain destitute of water to Náyán, which is a considerable town. There are many ruins in its environs, and the water is brackish.

22nd.—To A'g Déh, 40 miles S.S.E.

We again entered the desert; a small village, with a spring of fresh water, at 12 miles. At 20, we passed a fine caravanserai and a salt stream, but no fresh water, nor did we meet with any till within a couple of miles of A'g Déh, which is a town of some size, surrounded by a high wall in good repair. The country around is well cultivated, but the soil is in many places strongly impregnated with salt. There are many date-trees in the neighbourhood of this place, and a stream of salt water.

23rd.—To Ardekán, 28 miles S.E.

Still along the desert. At 4 miles, we passed a wretched village nearly smothered in loose sand; at 12 miles a second, in a similar condition; and at 16 miles, a stream of fresh water. At 20 miles, we crossed a low and narrow range of hills, and entered a part of the plain which bore a more cheerful aspect, being interspersed with villages and cultivated ground. Ardekán may be termed a city; it is protected by a strong wall, and successfully resisted the efforts of Hasan 'Alí Mírzá to take it. It contains a good bázár. Hinná* is much cultivated in the neighbourhood.

This place is situated near the borders of the Great Desert, which our road had skirted for some days. The country for the most part is covered with loose sand, into which cattle sink knee-deep at every step, and as it is driven about by the wind in vast clouds, it renders travelling exceedingly disagreeable; and banks of it are thus formed against the walls of all the gardens and villages. If it were not for the constant use of manure the whole plain would quickly become a barren waste. That the desert is slowly but constantly encroaching, is evident from the distant view we had of many half-smothered and long-deserted villages now far within its precincts, though they must at one time have been surrounded by arable land.

24th.—To the caravanserai of Askanadi, 26 miles S.E.

We still skirted the desert, through deep sand. At 6 miles, a large village; at 12 miles, a second; at 16 miles, a third; and at 21 miles, a fourth, that of Yezd-ābád, which is within a mile of the caravanserai. The cultivated parts of this country are

* *Lawsonia inermis* of botanists, the leaves of which are used in the East for dyeing the hands and hair red.—ED.

irrigated by means of subterranean canals, by which the water is conveyed from the mountains; but, from the looseness of the soil, they require continual labour to keep them in repair.

25th.—To Yezd, 20 miles S.E.

At 6 miles the road runs through the fine village of Eskazad, embosomed in gardens. Half a mile further on, we had a view of another village, called Gach: many ruins were scattered around.

The city of Yezd is situated near the foot of the range of mountains which bound the plain to the westward, and it is about 5 miles in circumference. The town, though walled, was easily taken by Ḥasan 'Alī Mīrzā; but he was unable to gain possession of the ark (citadel), in which 'Abdu-l Rīzā Khān held out till he was relieved by 'Abbās Mīrzā. The latter is surrounded by a strong wall and deep trench, and contains a palace built by Moḥammed Walī Mīrzā, together with several other public buildings, and the residences of a number of the chief men of the district.

The bázárs in the outer town are spacious, but were at this time almost entirely abandoned, having been plundered by Ḥasan 'Alī Mīrzā's troops. Gebrs, who here, as well as in Bombay, cling tenaciously to their ancient faith and worship, or rather venerate fire as the emblem of the Deity, are very numerous; there are also a good many Jews. Its manufactures, consisting of a variety of silks, velvets, cottons, namads (coarse woollens), loaf-sugar, &c. &c., are sufficiently known.

The country having been for some time the scene of civil war, famine, as a natural consequence, had ensued; and provisions of all kinds were so exceedingly dear that the poorer classes were unable to purchase them, and numbers died of absolute starvation.

'Abbās Mīrzā, having removed the governor, 'Abdu-l Rīzā Khān, had left the city in charge of Sulēimān Khān, the commander of the Shegagí* regiment. The whole of the villages during the last three days' journey had been plundered; and the inhabitants, although their crops promised well, were then in a most wretched condition. However, the corn of this district is at no time sufficient for the consumption of its inhabitants, supplies being brought from other parts in exchange for fruits and manufactured goods.

28th.—Merhis, 28 miles E.S.E.

We departed from Yezd this morning, and skirted a range of hills; passing during the first 8 miles two streams of water, and at 10 miles a village. Merhis is a fine village, situated at the foot of the mountains, and surrounded by gardens.

29th.—To the caravanserai of Zeni-ten, 26 miles S.E.

At 6 miles we crossed a low range of hills, and at 12 miles

* Shekákí?—Ed.

had a distant view of three villages, adjacent to each other, on the left. The caravanserai of Zeni-ten is ruinous, and stands alone in the desert: the only water to be had is from a small spring, dark-coloured, brackish, and bitter, with a strong bituminous smell, and a most disagreeable taste.

30th.—To the caravanserai of Shams, 38 miles S.E.

Our route still lay along the desert. At 12 miles we had a view of a village, apparently deserted and in ruins: at 20 miles we reached a caravanserai, where there was a stream of indifferent water, issuing out of a low hill, only in sufficient quantity to keep a small pond full: 4 miles further on, the road turns to the right, over a range of low hills, which here intersect the plain. The caravanserai of Shams is situated similarly to that of Zeni-ten, and supplied with water from a spring of precisely the same description, brackish and ill flavoured.

This place is notorious for robberies and murders; and we found half buried the bodies of four men who had evidently been very recently slaughtered. Their wounds had been inflicted either by the broad double-edged khámah (dagger), or by the sword.

31st.—To Annor, 24 miles S.E.

The road was along the desert, without any water, till we came within a couple of miles of Annor, which is a fine village, surrounded by many corn-fields, and some gardens, and watered by a small stream. There is an Imám-zádah adjacent, in the midst of a grove of very ancient fir-trees.

April 1st.—To Sheríf-ábád, 32 miles S.E.

For 20 miles along the desert, we then passed through the village of Bayos, surrounded by gardens and corn-fields; beyond which we again gained the barren plain, and continued along it to the small village of Sheríf-ábád.

2nd.—To Khallah Aghá, 30 miles E.S.E.

Our course again lay along the dreary and barren plain for 24 miles, when we fell in with two small villages. Khallah Aghá is a populous little town, and has a good caravanserai.

3rd.—To Kabud-harkhán, 30 miles S.E.

Along the plain, at 8 miles, a large village lay about 2 miles off the road. Water is found at 24 miles; and there is a caravanserai at the small village of Kabud-harkhán.

4th.—To Bákin, 30 miles S.E.

The road is similar to that of yesterday. At 20 miles we passed the large village of Robát;* and at 24 miles, another small village. The last 4 miles of this day's journey were through corn-fields. Bákin is a large village; and if we may judge from the great extent of ruins which surround it, the place must have been once far more considerable.

* Robad.—Serg. GIBBONS.

5th.—To Kirmán, 20 miles E.

A good caravanserai and streamlet at 12 miles. At 16 miles, we passed a small village with a few gardens and an Imám-zádah. Approaching Kirmán, the plain gradually narrows to a valley. The city, which is about 3 miles and a half in circuit, is walled. It is situated at the foot of a high range of mountains, whose summits were now covered with snow.

Hasan 'Alí Mírzá had been taken without a struggle, and was then a captive in the camp. He was a few days afterwards sent a prisoner to Teherán. The inhabitants, knowing the city to be incapable of defence, had forced him to surrender to 'Abbás Mírzá.

The bázárs were, at this time at least, but poorly stocked, though extensive; and there were many ruinous buildings to be seen within the town.

The principal manufactures of this place are shawls and namads;* the former of various descriptions and patterns, made from the hair of a goat, considerably smaller than the common sort, and covered with a thick coat of long white hair, frequently sweeping the ground; the latter the best made in Persia. Lead is brought from the mountains towards Belú-chistán.

About 1 mile to the S. are the ruins of a former town, girding a hill, which is crested by the remains of a fortress, once apparently of considerable strength, and completely commanding the present city.

The Prince 'Abbás Mírzá's camp, which we here joined, was pitched about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the town. The force here under his immediate command consisted of about 5000 cavalry, twenty-four guns, and the Khásseh, 2nd Tabríz, Marághah, Kará-tágh, Khóí, Afshár, Hamadán and Khemseh regiments, averaging 800 men each corps. Rations were at this time distributed pretty regularly; but the soldiers were already beginning to murmur about their arrears of pay.

A son of Hasan 'Alí Mírzá having shut himself up in the fortress of Shehri-Bábek, it was judged expedient to send a division in that direction, as well to reduce him, as to quell any insurrectionary movements in that quarter. A force, composed of three regiments, five guns, a howitzer and a thousand horse, under the command of Moḥammed Mírzá, and accompanied by the British detachment, was accordingly despatched for this purpose.

We marched on the 10th of April to Bákin, 20 miles W., which I have already described.

11th.—Twenty-eight miles N.N.W. to Mashís.

For 12 miles across the plain; we then entered a narrow

* Coarse woollens; blankets.—Ed.

valley, and continuing up it for 2 miles, arrived at some ruins, and a small spring of brackish water, where the troops were halted for breakfast, which was in most cases a crust of bread and a draught of water. After this we ascended hills for about 4 miles, when we began to descend abruptly into an extensive plain, dotted with numerous villages, of which Mashís is the most considerable. A great part of this plain is cultivated. Here we halted two days.

14th.—To Mahának, 16 miles W.

The road lay over hills, through a wild country, abounding with deer, wild boars, hares, &c.: encamped on the banks of a stream, in a valley called Mahának.

15th.—To Súr-khán, 20 miles W.

Continued over a country similar to that crossed yesterday, overgrown with underwood in many places: encamped near a stream, adjacent to the ruined caravanserai of Súr-khán.

16th.—Twenty miles W., over hills: encamped in a narrow valley, through which a rivulet wound.

17th.—To Sa'ad-ábád,* 20 miles W.

Hills for 16 miles, when the road entered an extensive plain, running N.W. and S.E. Sa'ad-ábád is a large village: there are several others not far distant.

18th.—To Sayyad-ábád,† district of Shírján, 24 miles W.

Route across the plain. Sayyad-ábád is situated at the foot of a range of mountains; a number of other villages skirt the hills on this side, each being surrounded by gardens and corn-fields, &c.

Having this day received intelligence that the young prince had left Shehri-Bábek, and taken refuge with his uncle at Shíráz, the army was halted here for some time, and the men were drilled daily, though nearly in a state of mutiny, from not receiving their pay, nor even their rations, regularly. The Kará-tágh regiment at length broke out into open mutiny, and it was with difficulty they were quieted with the payment of a *tómán*‡ to each man. "Let us but return to our homes," said these poor fellows, "you may then keep our pay, and we shall march ten *fersekhs* § a-day till we rejoin our families."

May 24th.—To Esyedābād,|| 20 miles E.S.E.

Taking leave of Shírján this morning, we continued along the plain, about which were scattered many villages, each surrounded by a belt of gardens and large tracts of cultivated land. But the promising prospect of an abundant harvest, with which the peasantry hoped in some measure to reimburse themselves, after having been first plundered by Hasan 'Alí Mírzá's army, and having the little provisions that remained wrung from them

* Sahadabad.—GIB. † Suyudabad.—GIB. ‡ 12s. 6d. § 35 miles. || Eseyedabad.

by our own, was blighted at once. The air was literally darkened by clouds of locusts, and myriads were busily employed in devastating every corn-field that we passed. So amazingly numerous were these insects, that in the course of a couple of hours, at the furthest, from their alighting in a field, nothing but leafless stalks remained to reward the labour of the husbandman.

25th.—To Tuzerg, 24 miles E.S.E.

At 10 miles we saw a village, and at 20 miles left the plain, and went up some low hills, among which is situated the village of Tuzerg.

26th.—To Húshán, 20 miles E. by S.

We marched over ranges of hills, gradually increasing in height, to the small village of Húshán, having passed a stream about half way.

27th.—To Báft,* 18 miles E.S.E.

Road like that of yesterday. At 8 miles we passed a stream, and at 11 miles a village. An elevated range of mountains appears to the eastward, some of their summits being still capped with snow. Báft is an inconsiderable village; but some provisions having been collected, the troops halted here for a day.

29th.—To Sereb-khán, 30 miles E. by S.

In $\frac{1}{2}$ hour we crossed a stream, and 2 miles further on, passed a ruined village; and at 8 miles beyond it, a second; after which the road lay for about a mile on the banks of a river. The country was hilly, with much underwood, and several stunted trees interspersed, among which I observed the ash, white-thorn, wild almond, &c. We encamped on the banks of a river, in the gloomy and secluded valley of Sereb-khán.† The troops were so exhausted with this march, mostly over hills and mountains, that it was found necessary to halt here for a day. Murmurs again arose among the troops, who, after their long march, could not procure a morsel to eat, there being neither village, caravanserai nor I'liyát tent to be seen; nor did we pass a single inhabited spot this day. As for the I'liyáts, from their superior knowledge of the country, they easily kept out of our way, striking their tents, and driving off their flocks and herds to the deepest recesses of the mountains, many days before we reached their usual haunts.

31st.—Ten miles W. by N., and afterwards E.S.E.

I presume the further road in the direction we were proceeding was found to be impracticable for guns; for to-day we turned back for 10 miles, then proceeded up a valley to the right, and ascending some steep hills, marched along a table-land upon their summits, till within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the place of encampment, when we

* Bawft.—GIB.

† Serephan.—GIB.

descended into a deep glen, in which the tents were pitched, on the banks of a river. There were some ruins on a neighbouring eminence. The artillery, being unable to follow the route of the Sarbáz, pursued the course of the river.

June 1st.—To Ālá-rúd,* 16 miles S.E.

The road passed over steep and rugged hills for a couple of miles, when it traversed a table-land for 6 miles more. At this point there was another ascent, where we were obliged to dismount the guns, and have them dragged up by the soldiers, for 4 miles over another table-land, when we descended by a deep pass, down which it was necessary to lower the guns with ropes into a narrow valley, in which the camp was pitched on the banks of a stream. There was no village to be seen; but there were many corn-fields cultivated in this sequestered spot by the I'liyáts, who had fled on our approach. Here the troops remained two days, feeding their cattle with the produce of the surrounding corn-fields, now nearly ripe.

4th.—To Dás,† 30 miles E.

Over a mountainous country, almost impassable for the guns. The sides of the hills were dotted here and there with stunted trees, among which was the fir. We passed up several romantic valleys, till we arrived at the foot of a stupendous range, of which the summits were covered with snow, where the prince's tent was to be seen, none of the others having arrived. Many of the men did not come in till late at night; and all were in a state of open mutiny, from starvation and fatigue.

5th.—To Sardoh, 12 miles E.

Mostly a descent through a defile, along the course of a stream. Passed an Imám-zádah and grove, close to the camp, which was pitched in a small plain surrounded by high mountains. There were the ruins of a fort upon an eminence not far from the camp, some I'liyát tents in the vicinity, and a mill embosomed in a grove of most venerable trees, but no village. Here we made some stay, in the utmost want of provisions, feeding the cattle on the surrounding pastures and the produce of the corn-fields, which were cut down without mercy for that purpose. The troops again mutinied, and the Kháṣṣeh regiment had even begun to march towards Kirmán, but were with great difficulty persuaded to return. This place is within 5 days' journey of Bander 'Abbás;‡ and as far as I could learn, the road to that place, though very difficult in some parts, is not totally impracticable for guns.

14th.—To Rogín, 40 miles E.N.E.

* Allarood.—GIB. Muddy stream.—ED.

† Daws.—GIB.

‡ Or Gamrún, opposite to Hormuz.—ED.

The detachment being ordered back to Kirmán, and having no foot soldiers with us, it was determined to make as long marches as possible. Having crossed the plain, our road lay among high mountains for about 20 miles, passing, at half way, the tents of Kásim Khán, the serhang or colonel of the Khásseh, who had been ordered to Kirmán, to answer for the mutiny of his regiment, but had made 2 days' journey to this place, proceeding as slowly as possible, in order to give his friends time to intercede for him with the prince. The road then enters an extensive plain, in which is situated the village of Rogín, together with many others, all of which were suffering from the ravages of the locusts. The Hamadán regiment was encamped here, and was loud in its complaints relative to pay and rations.

15th.—To Móhan, 42 miles N.

After 6 miles over the plain, the road again leads into the mountains for about 30 miles, after which it opens on another large plain interspersed with villages, among which is that of Móhan. The locusts were here also busily employed in destroying the crops. There is a fine Imám-zádah close to the village.

16th.—To Kirmán, 24 miles N.

After quitting the gardens and extensive cultivated tracts of Móhan, we bent our course over a desolate plain, which continued till within a couple of miles of Kirmán, where we arrived about mid-day.

Kásim Khán arrived a few days afterwards, and had some difficulty in escaping the vengeance of the prince; but he, at length, managed to get off by paying a heavy fine, and another was also levied on his brother, the major of the regiment.

We remained in this city till the 24th of July, when we again set out for Bákin, before described, in the train of Prince 'Abbás Mírzá, who was escorted only by a body of cavalry, and some artillery, the infantry having been all sent forward.

25th.—To Mashis, 28 miles N.N.W.

This march I have also previously described. Here we remained till the 4th of August, when we marched to Mahának, also formerly noticed, as well as Súr-khan, at which place we encamped on the 5th.

August 6th.—To Zeim, 24 miles N.W.

Route over high barren hills. Water at 4, 8, and 12 miles. At the second distance mentioned, we passed a small village, and encamped in a valley called Zeim.

7th.—To Pareiz, 16 miles N.

Road over rugged mountains. Pareiz is a considerable village, romantically situated in a deep glen, the remainder of which is completely filled up with gardens, a rapid little stream forcing its way through the midst of it. Here we halted a day.

9th.—To Kōrán, 16 miles W.N.W.

Among mountains for the first 3 hours; then an extensive plain; passed a village at half a mile, and a second at a mile from Pareiz. Encamped near the village of Kōrán. We remained here some days.

16th.—To Shutur Déh, or Déh Shuturán,* 32 miles N.W.

Road along a plain, barren, dreary and desolate. Brackish water at 22 miles, and a small stream at 26. Encamped between two small villages about 1 mile distant from each other, the nearest being called Shutur Déh.

17th.—To Shehri-Bábek.†

Continued along the plain; water at 1 and 3 hours. The town of Shehri-Bábek, near which we encamped, is surrounded by a high wall and trench, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile in circuit, but does not appear capable of defence, being commanded by two small hills, one to the N., the other to the S. of the fort. There are many gardens and extensive tracts of cultivated ground around this place. We here found the Khásseh, Marághah, Kará-tágh and Khemseh regiments.

19th.—To Robát, 20 miles N.W.

We marched from Shehri-Bábek this morning, together with the four regiments of infantry, still along the plain. Water at 4 and 8 miles. Robát‡ is a small village, with very brackish water.

20th.—To Herát, § 24 miles W.N.W.

Road similar to that of yesterday. After marching 8 miles we crossed a very salt stream, which here separates the provinces of Kirmán and Fárs. Herát is a fine village, and the country for some distance is covered with gardens and corn-fields, and well supplied with good water.

22nd.—To Bálá-báyán, or Shírín Báyán, 24 miles N.

Crossed the plain; after which we entered, at 8 miles, some low hills, which continued for the same distance. No water during the march. Bálá-báyán is situated near the borders of a salt desert, which we had skirted for the last 8 miles.

23rd.—Siryán, 23 miles, N.W.

For 16 miles a plain; afterwards hills. No water till we arrived at the camp, near the village of Siryán, which is picturesquely situated in a mountain-gorge, and the adjacent country well cultivated.

24th.—To Boniyát, 16 miles N.W.

The road lay up a narrow valley, through gardens and corn-fields. We passed three small villages, and encamped on the banks of a stream near a fourth, called Boniyát, where the valley

* Camel-ville.—ED. † Bábek's Town.—ED. ‡ Hall or Caravanserai.—ED.

§ The Khóí regiment here joined us. The remainder of the army was distributed in Yezd and Kirmán. This place is called Herátí Karrah.—GIB.

widens considerably. There is an Imám-zádah situated about half way up an adjacent mountain, enclosing a rock, out of a cleft in which gushes a little rill of very cool and clear water. The Musselmán legend is, that 'Alí once passing this way and feeling thirsty, smote the rock, from which the water burst forth, and has continued to flow ever since. This Imám-zádah is surrounded by a grove of large and apparently very aged trees, planted, probably, when the building, which is itself ancient and ruinous, was erected. The trees are chinár (plane), ash, elm, and walnut trees. We halted here a day, and 'Abbás Mírzá gave the troops permission to plunder a very fine and well-stocked garden belonging to the Vazír of the Prince, Governor of Shíráz.

26th.—To Girdáb, or Dēh Bīd,* 30 miles, N.N.W.

At 6 miles a small half-ruined village, and at 12 miles a second. The country is hilly and uncultivated, though not badly supplied with water. We encamped on the side of a mountain, round whose base a stream winds near the small village of Girdáb.

27th.—To Píri-Chóbán,† a small village, 24 miles N.N.W.

The country the same as yesterday, but better supplied with water. We passed two villages, one at 4 and another at 8 miles. Camp near a river.

28th.—To Kilid‡ and Surmah, two adjoining villages, 23 miles N.N.W.

Road mountainous. We passed several valleys covered with pasturage, in each of which were many small springs. At 21 miles we entered a plain, in which is situated the small village of Kilid, surrounded by gardens, corn-fields, &c. Here we halted for a day.

30th.—To Ābi-Dēh,§ 20 miles, N.W.

Road hilly for 6 miles, when it enters a plain: 2 miles further we passed a village called Chinár. There are many other villages in the neighbourhood of Ābi-Dēh, each encircled by its own gardens and cultivated ground. Here we also halted for a day.

September 1st.—To Shúli-Zen 16 miles N.N.W.

Along a dreary plain, destitute of water. There is a good caravanserai adjoining the small village of Shúli-Zen.

2nd.—To Yezdikhwást,|| 16 miles N.W.

We continued along the plain, and encamped in the deep ravine, upon the edge of which the village is built. This place is on the high road between Shíráz and Ísfahán; as were also the two last menzils¶ on the winter road between those cities. The inhabitants having fled, the Prince permitted the Sarbáz,**

* Watergirt, or Willow-village.—Ed. † Saint Shepherd.—Ed. ‡ Key.—Ed.

§ Village-water.—Ed.

|| Pronounced Yezdekhást; the *w* is not heard.—Ed. ¶ Halting-places.—Ed.

** Soldiers.—Ed.

&c. to plunder whatever remained in their houses, and to cut down any crops that had not been reaped as forage.

3rd.—To Maḳṣúd Luh,* 10 miles N.

Over a plain; at 7 miles passed a good caravanserai and ruined village. Encamped on the plain.

4th.—To Komishah, 20 miles N.N.W.

Road similar to that of yesterday. Encamped within 2 miles of the half-ruined city of Komishah; halted a day.

6th.—To Sháh Sayyad Allah Akbar, 8 miles N.

We again left the high road to Isfahán, and marched up a valley for 8 miles, where we encamped near an Imám-zádah.

7th.—To Pékán, 24 miles E.N.E.

Over a plain, passing a village at 16 miles, called Názer-ábád, and a second, 2 miles W., named Moḥammed-ábád, both surrounded by gardens and cultivated ground. Pékán is a large village, but its water is rather brackish. Here we remained for ten days, to prepare the men for parading before Fat-ḥ 'Alí Sháh, who was at Isfahán.

16th.—To Raḥm-ábád, 24 miles W.N.W.

Road across the plain; a village at 4 miles, and at 10 miles we entered a gorge of the mountains. At 20 miles we descended into an extensive plain studded with numerous villages; of which Raḥm-ábád is one of the most considerable, but the water is brackish.

17th.—To Zún,† 16 miles, along the plain.

At 10 miles we passed the large village of Khoraskhán, and encamped near the village of Zún, 4 miles E.S.E. of Isfahán, on the banks of the river Zend-rúd. The troops were halted here three days, and received a few kurúns pay each man. The monarch did not pay us a visit, however; but 'Abbás Mírzá rejoined us, having left the camp at Pékán to wait upon the king.

21st.—To Gaz, 14 miles W.N.W.

Passed the city of Isfahán; the road lay over a plain, affording a prospect of many villages. Gaz is a large village, with a fine caravanserai adjacent.

22nd.—To Múrchákhór, 22 miles N.W.

Still along the plain; halted near the large village of Múrchákhór. A good caravanserai adjoining.

23rd.—To Zoh, 20 miles N.W.

Over the plain for about 15 miles, when we passed a village, and entered a narrow valley in which Zoh, near which the camp was pitched, is situated. Here is also a caravanserai.

24th.—To Korúd,‡ 20 miles N.W.

Road up a valley; numerous springs during the march. Korúd, near which we encamped, is a large village built on the side of a

* The Goal (an Arabic phrase).—Ed.

† Spelt Zán (?)—Ed.

‡ Apes (Ar.)—Ed

mountain, and the valley for several miles from this is a continuation of gardens.

25th.—To Káshán, 26 miles N.N.W.

For the first 3 miles the road passes between gardens, and then continues through the valley, passing a large dam at 14 miles, built completely across the defile to reserve the water of the stream for irrigation. The path, for the most part, does not lead along the bed of the valley, but on the side of the mountains. We passed a caravanserai half way, and arrived at and encamped outside the walls of Káshán in the evening. The troops remained here some days, and six months' pay was issued. Here, also, it was intimated to them that they were to proceed to Khorásán, and many desertions took place in consequence. The Khemseh regiment was ordered home, and the Khásshah, Marághah, Kará-tágh and Khói regiments, together with six guns (six-pounders), and about 1000 horse, formed the army with which we were to penetrate into that province then in open rebellion.

October 2nd.—To Ābi-Shírín,* 24 miles N.N.W.

Over a sandy plain; a village at 6 miles, a second at 12 miles, and a third at 16 miles. Many others in view. Camp near a small village called Ābi-Shírín, where, however, all the water was extremely brackish.

3rd.—To Sír Ajá, 24 miles N.

Marched along a barren plain; a small village at 6 miles, after which no water. Camp near a petty village. Water brackish. Halted for a day.

5th.—To Salám-ābád, 25 miles N.N.E.

Still over a plain, intersected occasionally by ranges of low hills, with a distant view of Elburz and Mount Demávand towering far above the rest. At 16 miles we crossed a salt river, and encamped near the petty village of Salám-ābád; none but very brackish water to be had.

6th.—To 'Alí-ābád, in Varámín, 48 miles N.N.E.

The march was begun an hour before midnight, and we entered a desert, covered in many places with salt, which we continued to traverse for 45 miles without a drop of fresh water, till, at that distance, we reached a stream on the borders of the district of Varámín, into which the men, parched, weary and exhausted with fatigue, eagerly threw themselves to assuage their raging thirst. After having halted till they had drunk as much as they wished, we continued on for 3 miles further to the village of 'Alí-ābád, where we arrived at sunset, having been about nineteen hours on the march. As near 400 of the men had not come in at night-fall, and all were extremely fatigued, we halted here the

* Shírín's Water, or Sweet Water.—Ed.

next day. During the night, the stragglers arrived, with the exception of about fifty, who never joined us, and had probably, on arriving at Varámín, discouraged with such a severe march, deserted and taken the road towards Azerbaiján.

8th.—To Khoweir, 16 miles E.N.E.

Marched through a fertile and well-cultivated plain, covered with villages and gardens. Encamped near the village of Khoweir. Halted again two days.

11th.—To Eiwáni-Keif* 20 miles N.E. by E.

After 2 miles, the road passes among very low ranges of sand-hills for 8 miles more, when it crosses the extremity of the salt plain. The village of Eiwáni-Keif is situated at the foot of Mount Elburz, and is celebrated for its figs and other fruits. We met with fresh water at 2 and at 16 miles.

12th.—To Kishlák,† 22 miles E.

Crossed the plain for 5 miles, when the road entered the pass of Sar-darah,‡ through which we marched into the plain of Khár, and encamped near the village of Kishlák: here we remained for nine days.

22nd.—To Dêh Namak§ 16 miles E.N.E.

Over a vast plain, studded with villages for the first 8 miles; at 10 miles, crossed a salt stream, running from N. to S.; and 2 miles further, a second; the road skirting Mount Elburz. We encamped near the caravanserai and wretched village of Namak; water brackish.

23rd.—To Lasgird, 26 miles E.N.E.

Our road lay along the plain for 10 miles, when we crossed a deep ravine, and ascended some low hills; a view to the S. of the Salt desert, stretching out to a boundless extent. At 16 miles we crossed a bridge over a deep chasm or ravine, which is here considered as separating 'Irák from Khorásán. In the course of the next mile and a half we crossed two similar ravines. The village of Lasgird is situated in a valley; it is built upon the top of a high artificial mound, and well calculated to repel any attack from the Turkománs, who have been frequently known to extend their marauding expeditions as far as this.

24th.—Simnán, 20 miles E.N.E.

The valley gradually, in the course of 2 or 3 miles, widens into a plain; water at 6 miles; and at 8 miles we passed the large village of Surkyek Dêh, with many gardens and corn-fields adjacent. Simnán is a city about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circuit, but half in ruins; it is surrounded by a wall broken down in many places. The neighbourhood is well cultivated, and yields an abundant

* Or Kif, Pleasure Hall.—Ed.

† Valley-head.—Ed.

‡ Winter quarters.—Ed.

§ Saltville.—Ed.

supply of corn, fruits, &c. The bázárs are narrow and poorly stocked. We halted there for two days.

27th.—To the caravanserais of Akhíyán, 24 miles E.

For seven miles our course lay across a gravelly slope; after which we began to ascend the mountains, through which we marched till we arrived at the caravanserais in a gloomy uninhabited valley, surrounded on every side by high and barren mountains. The supply of water is from two small springs. This place has often been the scene of Turkomán depredations, and is much dreaded by the pilgrims travelling to and from Meshed.* After leaving the cultivated lands of Simnán there was no fresh water to be met with till we reached the camp.

28th.—To the caravanserai of Kóshlar,† 16 miles E.N.E.

Road mountainous for the first 10 miles, when it enters the great plain of Dámaghán. There are many villages scattered over the plain; and, after the first 8 miles, there is water in abundance. We encamped near the caravanserai.

29th.—To Daulet-ābād, 8 miles N.E.

Along the plain. Daulet-ābād is one of the best built little forts that I have seen in Persia: its chief had held out successfully against both Isma'íl Mirzá, governor of Bostám, and Bahman Mirzá, of Simnán; and he now offered 'Abbás Mirzá 30,000 tóman's if he would ensure him in the government of his own district, of which he was hereditary chief: the Prince promised to do so; but afterwards insisted upon his accompanying him to Khorásán with a body of his men; he could not refuse; and we had not been long in Khorásán before we heard that the Prince's governors of Bostám and Simnán had again attacked the place; and the chief himself and his best men being with 'Abbás Mirzá, it was soon reduced.

30th.—To Dámaghán, 12 miles N.E.

Still along the plain, having a prospect of many villages. The city of Dámaghán, near the walls of which we encamped, is about the same size as Simnán, but in even a still more ruinous condition; not a quarter of the space within the walls being occupied by habitable buildings. We halted here for two days.

Nov. 2nd.—To Déh Mullá, 24 miles E.N.E.

Route over the plain; many villages in sight during the march. The large village called Déh Mullá, and a good caravanserai, were near the camp.

3rd.—To Sháh-rúd,‡ 12 miles N.E.

The plain gradually becomes narrow as it approaches the town of Sháh-rúd, which is about 2 miles in circuit, is populous, has a

* "The place of martyrdom" of the Imám Rizá, properly Tús.—ED.

† Birds.—ED.

‡ King's River.—ED.

middling bázár, and is walled ; the surrounding country to a considerable extent being either laid out in gardens or under tillage. We halted here two days.

6th.—To Farrukh-ábád, 8 miles N.E.

This place is situated upon the borders of the desert ; here is a ruinous village, a good caravanserai, and abundance of water ; and it is usual for caravans leaving Sháh-rúd, to make this a day's journey, both to collect stragglers and shorten the road to Meï-omíd. We followed their example.

7th.—To Meï-omíd, 32 miles E.N.E.

The desert is level for 12 miles, after which there are low undulating hills for a similar distance, when the road again runs over a flat barren plain. No water was to be found till we arrived near Meï-omíd, which is a considerable village, walled round, with a good caravanserai, and a number of gardens near it. It is situated near the foot of a range of mountains.

8th.—To Dáskirt, or Dásgird, 32 miles E.

The usual route from Meï-omíd is direct to 'Abbás-ábád, but as this would oblige us to make another march of 48 miles without water, except the small supply we had now daily carried with us on camels, it was thought best to proceed to-day to Dáskirt, which lies considerably to the right of the direct line. For 4 miles we marched across the plain, and then entered among hills for 16 miles ; after which we again opened upon a plain, occasionally intersected by very low ranges of hills and extremely deep ravines. After the first 4 miles, we met with no water. We halted here a day : this is a fine village.

10th.—To 'Abbás-ábád, 24 miles N.E.

Through a dreary wilderness, whose flatness was occasionally diversified by low sand-hills. The village and caravanserai of 'Abbás-ábád were erected by Sháh 'Abbás the Great, for the benefit of caravans crossing the desert ; he carried off twelve Georgian families, and settled them here, under the severest penalties if they attempted to desert the place ; and their descendants continue to inhabit the village to this day, and have still a marked Georgian cast of countenance. The whole of this desert, from Sháh-rúd to Mázinán, is continually infested by Turkománs ; and, as but little ground can be cultivated from a small rill which flows from the only spring situated within the walls of the village, the inhabitants are often forced to traverse the desert in order to purchase provisions for their own consumption and for sale to the caravans, and thus fall a prey to these kidnappers, so that there is scarce a peasant in the village who has not got a sad story to tell of some one of his family who has been carried off into hopeless captivity. Nevertheless

these people appear far more clean and comfortable, both in their houses and dress, than the generality of the Persian rayás;* this may be accounted for by their paying no taxes, and by the profit they make by selling provisions to travellers, which, indeed, it is only fair that they should gain, when they have to make such long and dangerous journeys to obtain them. The Turkománs, however, have never yet succeeded in capturing the little fort.

11th.—To Mazínán, 24 miles E.N.E.

Still over the desert; some brackish springs at 4 miles, after which no water till we arrived at the camp near Mazínán. This desert abounds in deer and wild asses; and for the last three or four stages, several had been hunted down or shot daily, which was no difficult matter where there were such a number of horse-men to intercept them in every direction, who also could take aim and fire their guns at full gallop; but for a fair chase, the wild ass is a most difficult animal to run down; indeed it is said that no horse can overtake him. The Persians eat the flesh of this animal, esteeming it equal to venison, which it resembles in flavour. Here we halted a day.

13th.—To Surkhán, 12 miles E.N.E.

We marched along the plain, found water at 6 miles, and encamped near the small village of Surkhán. It may be observed, that every village in Khorásán is walled; as otherwise they would never be able to resist the attacks of the Turkománs.

14th.—To Rivát,† 14 miles E.

The road over the plain; passed the village and caravanserai of Mayah at 4 miles; many others were in sight during the march. Rivát is an indifferent village.

15th.—To Sabzawár, 20 miles E. by N.

Road similar to that passed yesterday, with a village at 10 miles. The city of Sabzawár is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circumference, contains an ark (citadel), and is surrounded by a single high wall and trench. There is a good bázár, and the town appears to be populous. The surrounding country presents the appearance of a bleak, open, uneven down; there being, except in the very few adjacent gardens, scarcely a tree to be seen: the prospect was particularly cheerless when viewed from a tent at this season of the year. But these downs, though not favourable to fruit-trees, are said to afford an abundant harvest of grain. We remained here eight days.

24th.—To Ahmed-ábád, 14 miles N.N.E.

At 4 miles we passed the large village of Bedan, found water at 8 miles, and at 10 miles, entered the hills; passed another village at 12 miles; that of Ahmed-ábád is situated in a small valley.

* Ri'âyá, i. e. subjects, commonly thus abridged.—ED.
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† Rivad.—GIB.
M

25th.—To Mishkan, 18 miles N. by E.

Over hills for 2 hours, when the road passes the small village of Kásh, and again crosses a plain. Mishkan is a considerable village.

26th.—To Yún,* 10 miles N.

Over hills for 6 miles, then wound through a valley in which is situated the village of Yún. The troops halted here three days.

30th.—To Hájí-ábád, 12 miles N.E. by E.

Over hills for 2 hours, after which we entered a narrow valley, near the further extremity of which is the village of Hájí-ábád. Fine pasturage throughout the march, and water in abundance.

Dec. 1st.—To Sultán Maídán,† 4 miles N.E. by N.

Marched over a hilly country 4 miles, when the troops encamped within 2 miles of the fort of Sultán Maídán, separated from it by a low range of hills. On the night of the 2nd, 300 men from each corps, and our little train of artillery, were marched down, and entrenched before Sultán Maídán.‡ It is unnecessary, and would be tedious, to enter into a detailed account of the siege; I shall, therefore, merely mention that, on the 4th, an attempt to storm the place was made,§ in which the troops were repulsed, with a loss of about sixty men killed or wounded; and that, on the 10th, the fort was surrendered.

11th.—To Burj, 8 miles E.S.E.

Marched over a rugged and uneven plain, covered with pasturage and interspersed with villages; encamped near that of Burj.

12th.—To Girdbálá, 20 miles E.S.E.

Eight miles along a plain, affording abundance of pasturage, and well watered, with a prospect of several villages; through a narrow valley for 4 miles more, and then over hills for nearly the same distance; when the road opens upon the extensive plain of Níshápúr, with many villages scattered over its surface. We encamped on the borders of the plain, between two villages, called Girdbálá and Robát.

13th.—To Níshápúr, 8 miles E.

We marched across the plain to the city of Níshápúr, near which we encamped. This town is about 2 miles in circuit; but its walls enclose many ruins and vacant pieces of ground upon which buildings once stood: its bázárs are but indifferent. On the following day the troops were quartered in the town, and on the 18th 'Abbás Mírzá, with the artillery and Khásseh regiment, proceeded towards Mesh-hed. We remained till the

* Youne.—GIB.

† "Sultan's Plain:" Meídán or Maídán.—EB.

‡ Sultán Maídán at this time was in the possession of Rízá Kúlí Khán, of Kúchán, the most powerful of the rebel chiefs in Khorásán.

§ One of the British sergeants was killed.

10th of January, and then followed the Prince, leaving the rest of the army at Nishápúr. Our first day's journey was to Khádam Khá, 16 miles E.N.E., along the fertile and populous plain of Nishápúr. Khádam Khá is built upon the top of a steep hill, at the base of which there is a fine Imám-zádah, and a great extent of gardens and cultivated ground; the village, besides being strongly situated, is surrounded by a high wall; and though the city of Nishápúr itself has often been taken by the insurgent chiefs, this place has never yet fallen into their hands, though defended only by the villagers. There is also at the foot of the hill, a good caravanserai.

Jan. 11th, 1832.—To Sheríf-ábád, 28 miles E.

For 10 miles along the plain; after which the road runs between and over hills, each successive range overtopping the last. At 16 miles there is a good caravanserai. There was no want of water during the march. Sheríf-ábád is a small village, situated in a gloomy little valley, which has often been the scene of Turkomán depredations: there is a caravanserai adjacent.

12th.—To Mesh-hed, 20 miles N.

Mountain towering above mountain for the first 10 miles, when we commenced a gradual descent, and reached the plain at the end of 6 more. The city of Mesh-hed has a striking appearance from a distance; the walls embracing a circuit of near 7 miles—the gilded dome and beautiful minarets of the mosque, which encloses the mausoleum of Imám Rizá, together with some other sacred edifices erected in different parts of the town—have a picturesque effect; but, on passing through the gates, the traveller is much disappointed—at least one half of what was once the city being either encumbered with ruins, or laid out in gardens and corn-fields.

It would be uninteresting to enter into a circumstantial and prolix history of the various events which took place during the ensuing spring and summer; I shall therefore merely observe, that 'Abbás Mírzá reinforced by another division of his army under his son, Karamán Mírzá, was, partly by force and partly by intrigue, completely successful in reducing to obedience the rebellious chiefs; taking the strongholds of Amír-ábád, Turshíz, Kúchán, Serakhs, and Turbat Haideri,* and gaining possession of the persons of the most turbulent chiefs.

In December, 1832, the British detachment left Khorásán with four regiments, and began its march to Tabríz, which it reached in March, 1833. But, as my intention is merely to give a short itinerary of our route as far as Mesh-hed, I shall pass over this journey in silence.

* The sepulchral chapel of Haider.—Ed.

The length of many of the marches may seem almost incredible in such a warm climate as that of Persia is for the greater part of the year, especially as they were all made by day; but it will be found that there was often no resource but to push on to the regular halting-place, or to encamp halfway in some place destitute of water; and the men themselves would always have preferred the former alternative to suffering from thirst, for the peasantry of Persia are inured from infancy to long journeys on foot, either from residing in villages often standing alone, and generally at a considerable distance from each other, or, if the soldiers belong to the *l'iyát* tribes, from constantly wandering about with their flocks and herds. Travellers who have viewed, from an elevated point, any of the great plains of this country, cannot but have observed that the villages look like so many small dark spots scattered, few and far between, over the brown surface of the vast and dreary wilderness: so that the necessity of conveying the produce of their lands (which is usually carried upon asses) for sale or barter to distant villages, or to towns still more remote, renders the *rayás* as hardy and persevering a race of pedestrians as is perhaps anywhere to be met with.

XI.—*An Account of the Curia Muria Isles, near the South-Eastern Coast of Arabia.* By the late Dr. HULTON, of the Indian Navy.

DURING our survey of the south-eastern coast of Arabia, in the months of February and March, 1836, we continued amidst the group which has for the last three centuries been called “the Curia Muria* Islands.” They lie off Sherbadhát, and appear to be a continuation of the chain of primitive mountains which passes through Morbát and Hásik. They are five in number, and are named Helláníyah, Karczawet, Jebelíyah, Soda, and Hásikí.

Helláníyah,† which is situated in 17° 33' N., 56° 6' E., is the only one of the group at present inhabited. Its general appearance is that of perfect sterility. With the exception of a few salt-water shrubs which usually fringe the small sandy bays, not

* Probably Khuriyán Muriyán: as should be read instead of Khartán and Martán in the MSS. and Ed. of Idrísí. Though transcribers might easily put *t* for *y*, the proper pronunciation of the names was, no doubt, preserved by the natives, from whom the Portuguese navigators got the Curia Muria of our maps. The omission of the final *n* is common in Asiatic dialects: these names may therefore be safely written and pronounced

خریان مریان Khuriyán, Muriyán.

† Small goat-isle.—ED.